



Yellowstone County Extension Office  
<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h/>  
Courthouse Room 106  
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Billings MT 59107-0521  
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## MARCH 2009

### 4-H FOLKS IN FOCUS

Thanks to the Sale Committee for doing Beef Tagging.

Can you believe that we are almost half way through the 4-H year? I hope your projects are going well.

Shane Knerr & Mekaila Longmire took part in the Lewis & Clark County 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational. Great job!

Thanks to Jane Ryan, Hope Martin, Blake Lanaghan, Cody Thatcher, Carrie Krug, Melody Harris, Chris Martin, Lacey Lanaghan, Wendy Thatcher and Leslie Idstrom for working the 4-H booth at the Chicks In Science fair. 1,196 guests attended Chicks in Science! (bjk10/14/91)

Roni Baker  
Yellowstone County 4-H/Youth Agent

### COMMUNICATION CONTEST DAY

Here are just a few reminders about County Communication Contest Day on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at Huntley Project School in Worden and Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at First Congregational Church. Remember - there are time limits on:

#### Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks:

8 - 10 year old - 3-5 minutes  
11 - 13 year old - 5-7 minutes  
14 & older - 7 - 20 minutes

**Speeches:** 8 - 13 year old - 3-5 minutes  
14 and older - 5-7 minutes

We ask that each family participating in County

Communications Day on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> bring 1 dozen cookies to share with everyone. This will help provide refreshments for everyone. (Juice will be provided.) The Communication Day Post Meeting will be held Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 P.M. in Room 105 of the Courthouse.

### COMMUNICATION DAY LUNCH

Plan on eating your lunch at the County Communication Contest Day March 28<sup>th</sup>. We will serve the judges and helpers first, and will have plenty extra to sell. Come and enjoy good company and lunch. Proceeds help the Exchange members with travel expenses.

### PROJECT PLANS

Just a reminder that all members enrolled in the Self Determined Project and Independent Study Project should be completing their project plan. These are due in the Extension Office on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### FRUIT SALE DELIVERY REMINDER

Fruit will be delivered on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The fruit will be delivered to the Metra Expo Center this year. Please have all fruit sale checks made out to your 4-H club. Your club will then write one check to the Yellowstone County 4-H Council. Please deliver fruit immediately.

### 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

**THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN MARCH.** The next 4-H Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7:30 P.M. in Room 105 of the Courthouse. Everyone is invited to attend.



**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**EXTENSION**

## 4-H EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Most members are very active in their 4-H clubs and they do a wonderful job on their projects, community service activities, leadership opportunities and many other activities done in the club.

I would like to encourage members to also take part in county, regional and/or state events and activities. These are great opportunities to learn. Take part in Communication Day, Sewing Festival, 4-H Camp, Junior Leaders, Project Day, Interstate Exchange, Congress, Citizenship, Washington Focus, etc. Events like Family Fun Night build on community connection and help clubs grow. These are a critical part of our county program and I hope clubs acknowledge youth for being involved.



These events and opportunities help broaden your leadership skills and open

many new doors. Give me (Roni Baker) a call at the Extension Office (256-2828) or visit with your leaders to learn more.

## 2009 YOUTH TRAPPER CAMP

Are you taking the wildlife project or just like animals? Visit [www.montanatrappers.org/program/yt.htm](http://www.montanatrappers.org/program/yt.htm) for information about the 2009 youth trapper camp. It is scheduled for June at the Beaver Creek Park south of Havre. The camp teaches ethical trapping methods, trapping rules and regulation, trap setting and fur handling. Camp is limited; some scholarships are available. Applications are accepted on a first come, first accepted basis.

## INTERNATIONAL HOSTING

The deadline for host family applications for summer 2009 is March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in hosting a delegate from Japan (25-28 students from Japan), Finland, Norway, or Costa Rica for one month or a high school delegate for a whole year, please contact Stephanie Davidson at 406-994-3502. This is a cultural opportunity you don't want to miss!

## SKILLATHON PRACTICE

The Skillathon stations will be set up at Communication Contest Day on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Wendy Thatcher, the Chairman, will set up the stations in the cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to try some of the stations to learn and have fun. Remember Skillathon is one of the requirements for All Around at MontanaFair.

## RETURN SKILLATHON MATERIALS

Please return all Skillathon stations, materials, etc. to the Extension Office no later than Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. No exceptions!

## LEADERS' COLLEGE

Leader's College Level 1 will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with Reb Lab in Forsyth, MT. Must be registered to attend.

Leader's College Level 2 training will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. in conjunction with Communication Day at Huntley Project School. This fun, interactive workshop is for those who have completed Leader's College Level 1.

Leader's College Level 3 training will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 noon in Yellowstone County Courthouse Room 105. Cost for Level 3 is \$10.00 which includes lunch and snacks. Registration is required and forms can be printed from the county 4-H website [www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h](http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h). Look under the section "Other Forms".

Registration forms are also available at the county Extension Office.

## 2009 MONTANA FAIR THEME

"It's a Real Big Deal", August 7~15, 2009. Go to [www.MontanaFair.com](http://www.MontanaFair.com) to find out more details. The 2009 exhibitor's hand book should be posted by mid April.

## ALL AROUND CONTEST AT MONTANAFAIR

Each year at the MontanaFair an All Around Contest is held. The purpose of the contest is for young people to compete in an event where they are acknowledged for their involvement and knowledge of their animal projects. I would encourage everyone to participate.

Only Yellowstone County Exhibitors (FFA and 4-H) are permitted to enter the All Around Award Contest. There will be a Junior and Senior Division for each of the Large and Small Animal categories.

You must compete in all 5 categories to receive premium money in the All Around Contest.

- A. Animal Category - 100 points maximum
- B. Showmanship Category - 100 points maximum
- C. Individual Livestock Judging - 100 points possible. If entering a large animal you will take part in the contest during the fair. If entering the small animal category you will take part in the small animal contest prior to the fair.
- D. Record Book Category - 120 points maximum
- E. Skillathon - 180 points maximum in Large Animal & 180 points maximum in Small Animal.

## GIRLS FOR A CHANGE 'PICTURE YOUR POTENTIAL'

Girls For a Change (GFAC) is a local grass roots initiative. The mission is to bring girls (8-12 grade), women and other community members together to empower girls to embrace their future, confident about their individuality, supported by friends, parents and mentors and secure in their ability to lead and to achieve self-sufficiency, fulfillment and success.

When: Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Where: Montana State University - Bozeman  
Cost: \$15 (limited scholarships available)  
Includes lunch and conference supplies.

This year's conference theme is Courage to Climb.  
For more information go to:  
[www.girlsforachangebozeman.org](http://www.girlsforachangebozeman.org)  
or contact the Extension Office at 256-2828.

## RIFLE RAFFLE

1,000 tickets are being sold to win a \$2,500 gift certificate toward a Shilo Sharps rifle, the drawing to be held June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, at the Quigley Shoot in Forsyth, MT; you do not have to be present to win. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. For information contact the extension office at 256-2828. All proceeds go to the Montana 4-H shooting sports program.

## IT'S CLOVER TIME

Please send Clover story leads to the Extension Office so that the state can get started on the 2009-2010 Montana 4-H Clover. The theme will be "Youth Moving Mountains."

Here are some of the story topics we need:

Achievements – A special 4-H individual who has gone the extra mile in their community, for example!

Outdoor Adventure – Stories and photos giving examples of learning experiences?

Robotics – Who has a story or picture to share with us about your Robotics club?

Healthy Living – Who has a Foods or Nutrition Project or others in this area that they want to share?

Shooting Sports – Tell about events you participated in.

Animal Science – Show youth working with animals and the science behind the experience!

Send contact information, a brief summary and how the story depicts "Youth Moving Mountains" to [RoniBaker@montana.edu](mailto:RoniBaker@montana.edu) or fax us at 256-2825. The deadline for story leads is March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## STATE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 is the deadline** for State Award and Scholarship Applications.

The State Awards are given to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of 4-H members. Members who were 14 or older by October 1, 2008, are eligible to apply. To apply for state awards in any project or area, use the Montana State 4-H Awards application. Winners are eligible to attend National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. Check with the Extension Office for an application.

Attention Seniors! Are you thinking of college? Check

out these scholarship opportunities:

Montana Agri-Business - will be awarded to a 4-H member interested in Ag Business.

Montana Meat Processors - have established a scholarship with the Montana 4-H Foundation to assist an individual with an interest/background in meat science.

Montana Wheat & Barley - offered to a 4-H member who has done outstanding work in bread baking, or similar projects utilizing grains and grain products, or project work in the crop science area.

Douglas A. Dear Memorial - Doug Dear was an instrumental contributor to the Montana 4-H Horse Program. The scholarship will assist an individual with an interest or background in the 4-H Horse Project.

N.A. Jacobsen - applicant must be a junior or senior enrolled in the College of Agriculture at MSU-Bozeman who is interested in a career with the MSU Extension Service.

Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply - established for Montana high school students who have demonstrated a dedication to 4-H and the ideals of leadership, responsibility, and integrity. Students will also be evaluated based on their academic achievement, their service and involvement with 4-H, and their contributions to community service.

Applications for all scholarships can be downloaded from the Montana 4-H website: [www.montana4h.org](http://www.montana4h.org)

## REALITY CHECK ~ HEALTH ROCKS

Don't forget to register for the "Reality Check" workshop scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Billings. It's an opportunity to have fun, make new friends and learn some valuable life skills.

4-H members age 14 and older by October 1, 2008 are eligible to attend. Registration is on a first come, first served basis with early bird deadline on March 27<sup>th</sup>. A registration form was included in you January 4-H newsletter or one can be printed off the county 4-H website.

## MEMBERS ATTEND LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Several 4-H members and leaders attended the 4-H legislative breakfast in Helena on January 20<sup>th</sup>. During the breakfast 4-H youth and adult volunteers informed

legislators about the importance the 4-H program plays in their lives and what they have learned as a result of their participation in the 4-H program. Over 340 people from Montana attended the breakfast with 79 legislators.

The following Yellowstone County 4-H members and leaders attended the breakfast:

Bryant Beck	Summer Frickel
Stephanie Horsman	Breanna Knobel
Caleb Laszloffy	Josiah Laszloffy
Madison Ostermiller	Delaney Sharbono
Cody Thatcher	Louisa Wilkenson
Issac Zahn	Jennifer Laszloffy
Wendy Thatcher	

## AEROSPACE WORKSHOPS

Let's become Aerospace Engineers and learn how things fly at the beginning level Aerospace workshops. Participants will learn about the Aerospace industry, build rotors, helicopter and will built a rocket to launch!

If you've already been involved in the Aerospace workshops and have already built a rocket, you can join the class but will need to buy a rocket if you choose to build another one, or you can bring your rocket and motors to the launch and participate.

Workshop dates are Fridays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., March 13<sup>th</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Courthouse Room 105. The rocket launch will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at MetraPark.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants. Call the Extension Office at 256-2828 to register.

## NILE COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to seniors graduating from high school in 2009. The deadline to apply is April 3<sup>rd</sup> with selection before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Nine (9) scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded.

The scholarship application is available in printable pdf format on the NILE website [www.thenile.org](http://www.thenile.org) or at the Extension Office. If you have questions about the scholarship you may contact the NILE office at 406-256-2497.



## PROJECT ENROLLMENT

Many 4-Her's have chosen projects for the 2008-2009 4-H year and have hopefully begun work on them. A computer printout of your club has been sent to your organizational leader to make any corrections or additions.

**4-Her's have until Thursday, April 30 to add or drop projects. If there are changes, they must be given to the Organizational Leader of your club and they will note them on the computer printout, which needs to be turned into the Extension Office by April 30. 4-Her's must be enrolled in a project by April 30 in order to exhibit at the 2009 MontanaFair.**

## PICTURES NEEDED

Did your pig knock you down in the mud and you took a picture of it? Did your club visit a Senior Center and show off your projects to them and you took a picture of it? Did you make a beautiful quilt, woodworking project, or create a yummy dessert and you have a picture of yourself with it? We are always looking for fun pictures for newsletters and publications. If you have any pictures of yourself working on your project, your club meetings, activities or community service projects, or any other pictures reflecting 4-H that you would be willing to share with us, please bring them to the Extension Office.

We can copy them and have them on file for future pamphlets, booklets, newsletters, and flyers. Please include the names of everyone in the picture. Pictures liven up publications and newsletters and make for much more interesting reading. We love publicizing 4-H through pictures.

## 4-H CAMP

This year camp will be held on June 9 ~ 12 at the Beartooth Christian Camp near Absarokee. You can look forward to great dances, campfires, swimming and many more crafts and activities. Camp will cost \$100.00 for campers.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your camp registration form. We will have a limit of 120 campers (Yellowstone, Stillwater, & Carbon County). **Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served process.** Camper applications are due on **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT FAIR

Do you want to know how to market your 4-H animal or speak to a potential buyer? Wonder what goes on in Department N during fair week? Come find the answers to these and other questions about fair.

When: Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Laurel Baptist Church  
2920 Outfitter Trail

Hosted by the Ruff Riders 4-H Club. Guest speakers will help present the information. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Call Jennifer Laszloffy @ 855-7756.

## JR. LEADER BRUNSVOLD WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Ruff Rider club member Lauren Brunsvold participated in the Miss Teen Rodeo pageant held January in Great Falls. The 5-day pageant included a written horsemanship test, riding, interview, speech, fashion show and fundraising. Lauren was awarded a superior arena performance, won the Appearance Award, and a scholarship. Congratulations Lauren.

## JUNIOR LEADERS

Anyone 13 and older is welcome to come join the fun in the Junior Leader Group. You do not need to be signed up in the project. We will meet on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Courthouse Room 105, for a fun mystery game of Clue! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Anyone 13 or older welcome to attend. For more information please call Lacey at 628-1075 or Melody at 208-3911.



Thanks to the following Jr. Leaders for participation in the State 4-H Foundation Phone-a-thon. \$245 was raised! Way to go!

Chrissy Anderson - Yellowstone Mavericks  
Jasmine Drange - Laurel Roadrunners  
Stephanie Horsman - Shepherd Pioneers  
Carrie Krug - Laurel Roadrunners  
Christopher Lanaghan - Laurel Roadrunners

Hope Martin - Yellowstone Mavericks  
Jane Ryan - Laurel Roadrunners  
Justin St. John - Kountry Kritters

## 4-H CONGRESS

Were you 14 years old by October 1, 2008 and are interested in attending 4-H Congress in Bozeman this July? The following briefly describes the activities and events that are available at State 4-H Congress. Please read them carefully. Congress will take place July 7 ~ 10, 2009.

**Demonstration** - You must have received a blue ribbon at the County Communication Contest on March 28<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. We may take any number of competitors.

**Public Speaking** - You must have received a blue ribbon at the County Communication Contest on March 28<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. We may take any number of competitors.

**Fashion Revue** - We may take more than one participant. Selection is made at the Showcase.

**Horse Judging** - We may take a team of four. We hope to have a county horse contest.

**Stir-Ups Contest** - This is a fun, challenging food program where members plan a meal, prepare a low-fat main dish, display the meal and create a notebook. One person may attend per county.

**Gavel Games** - This is a Parliamentary Procedure Contest. Teams of four compete. If you are interested in this program, contact Roni at the Extension Office.

**Quilting** - Quilts judged at the Showcase are eligible to attend Congress.

**Horse Skill-a-Thon** - A team of four can compete in this contest about horse knowledge. Contact Roni if you are interested.

If you have any questions, call the Extension Office at 256-2828.

## 4-H CLUB OFFICERS 2008 - 2009

### PRESIDENTS:

Sheri Allen	Heights Trailblazers
Alicia Bear	Explorers
Shelby Dalke	Huntley Eagles
Kasie Haack	Ruff Riders
Stephanie Horsman	Shepherd Pioneers
Ryan Huntington	Lockwood Humble Bs
Carrie Krug	Laurel Roadrunners
Alexandria Kuntz	City Slickers

Hope Martin  
Leigha McGarvey  
Autumn McSweyn  
Kayla Nelson  
Tyler Oedekoven  
Shelby Sundheim  
Cody Tyler  
Darci Walker

Yellowstone Mavericks  
Blue Creek Jumping Bucks  
Kountry Kritters  
Worden Riverdale  
Shepherd Tumbleweeds  
Boots & Britches  
Town and Country  
Lockwood Soaring Phoenix

### SECRETARIES:

Chrissy Anderson  
Katherine Argento  
Erika Erickson  
Joshua Francisco  
Katelynn Frantz  
Jasmine Harrell  
Catlin Harrington  
Ty Helms  
Hanna Jandro  
Carrie Jones  
Tori Seibert  
Melanie Sherseth  
Cody Thatcher  
Emily Walker  
Jessica Weeding  
Louisa Wilkinson

Yellowstone Mavericks  
Lockwood Humble Bs  
Shepherd Tumbleweeds  
Blue Creek Jumping Bucks  
Yellowstone Mavericks  
Kountry Kritters  
Town and Country  
City Slickers  
Explorers  
Lockwood Soaring Phoenix  
Heights Trailblazers  
Shepherd Pioneers  
Laurel Roadrunners  
Huntley Eagles  
Worden Riverdale  
Ruff Riders

## 4-H SUPPORTERS

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month I have been listing several of those supporters in the newsletter. I would encourage you to tell them thank you and support them in return. If you would like to submit names for this article, please send them to Roni.

Beyond Basil Catering	Crowley Law Firm
Big Sky Steel & Salvage	Billings Farmhand Sales
Golden Steel & Recycling	Bob Smith Trucking
Yellowstone Valley Parts & Equipment	
Farmers Insurance (Judith Wallinder & Roger Daniels)	

## YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Yellowstone County 4-H Foundation Scholarship is available for Yellowstone County 4-H Alumni who are pursuing a post secondary education. The application will be mailed to all current 4-H members who are seniors in

High School. Members can receive this scholarship one time. Contact the Extension Office for information and applications.

## **MONTANAFAIR EXHIBITORS HANDBOOK CHANGES**

Here are a few of the changes made to the fair handbook. Be sure to read your book very carefully when you get them in the mail. They should arrive sometime in May.

### Department N

Add PACT to the exhibitor's handbook.

Put costume, duct tape and display in their own classes to be judged so they are not judged against the other sewing projects.

Horticulture – add – We recommend you bring your seed packet or other information to tell about the variety.

Set up a committee to review the photography section – perhaps redo the categories into scenic, people, animals and wildlife, etc. rather than digital/manual.

Hold a rocket launch at the fair. You must be enrolled in the aerospace project and must have 1 entry in aerospace in Department N to participate.

Change building set up time on Thursday so it is open after 5:00 p.m.

Booth judging sheets need to be reviewed. A committee was set up to make recommendations.

Class Judging needs to end earlier.

Add a table setting competition that will be open to everyone.

Watch future newsletters and the MontanaFair handbook for schedule changes.

### Department A

Initial deadline for fair entries is 5:00 p.m. Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. Entries received by this deadline will not incur late charges.

Entries received after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, will be assessed a \$40 per exhibitor late fee which must accompany the entry. Monies generated through late

fees will be used for the education scholarship fund. No later entries will be accepted without payment. Entries submitted after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2009 will not be accepted.

Livestock Leaders who do not have children enrolled in a livestock project should attend an Animal Quality Assurance class every 2 years.

Exhibitors cannot exhibit (market, breeding or showmanship) animals tagged for MontanaFair at another county fair except for the Montana State Fair.

The large animal round robin will consist of beef, sheep, goat, hog, horse, dairy, cow and llama. There must be at least 3 showmen per species (so the animal is in the round robin, not the exhibitor) for the competitor to complete. The species will stay as beef, sheep, goat, hog, etc., as long as they are being show.

Horse members, horse leaders and organizational leaders enrolled in the prior year can vote at the Horse and Colt Committee meetings. Any rule or policy change must be submitted to the Extension Office on the rule/policy proposal form by the first Friday in October. These changes will be voted on at the October Horse and Colt Committee meeting.

A project horse may be exhibited by up to two 4-H members. They must be part of the immediate family and may be shared only for a period of 1 year and not be riding at the same level. One of the showing participants must be in Horse Level 1, 2 or 3. Neither the horse nor the member can compete against himself or herself. Each member must provide a horse ID card for the horse by the May 1<sup>st</sup> Horse ID Card deadline.

Breeding rabbits may be shown if they are born before May 1<sup>st</sup> and meet the age requirements.

Poultry Crowing contest changed from 8 months to no age limit.

If you have a decorated egg (that is not a diorama) that is larger than 12 inches across/wide, please make certain it has a protective cover on it.

Small animals need to be born by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

4-H club of FFA chapter can select best 3 animals for Club Pen of 3. One animal per 4-H or FFA member, not one per family.

Steers or heifers are eligible to be exhibited in Division 5. Steers must be castrated and heifers cannot be bred. Exhibitor must prove it is open by veterinarian or certified technician within 1 week of fair.

Separate the does in milk for the dry does and babies. To be judges separately with grand and reserves in both.

Swine entries must weight between 200 and 285 pounds. Swine weighing 200-219 pounds will not be able to compete in the rate of gain, or the carcass contest, and will not sell. However they may stay and compete in a feeder and breeding classes only, but not in the lightweight division championship.

There will be a mandatory swine meeting this year in the Expo right after weigh in. We will be discussing the fair changes and the barn rules that will be enforced beginning MontanaFair 2009.

Watch future 4-H newsletters and the MontanaFair handbook for schedule changes.

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## **DEPARTMENT N NEWS ...**

### **(Non Livestock Projects) DEPARTMENT N MEETING**

There **WILL NOT** be a Department N meeting in March. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Room 105 of the Courthouse. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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## **LEATHER PROJECT**

The Big Sky Association of Leather Artists (BSALA) meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 ~ 8 p.m. in Courthouse Room 105. Anyone in the Leather Project is welcome to attend.

Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – A Bob Beard video on tooling and coloring will be shown.

BSALA with the help of Hidecrafter Leather Craft has donated thirteen DVD's on leather craft! These DVD's cover a variety of techniques and can be checked out from the Extension Office.

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## **CAKE DECORATING WORKSHOP**

There will be a Cake Decorating workshop on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in Room 105 at the Courthouse. We will be doing Easter Cakes. 1<sup>st</sup> year members: bring a one layer cake; 2<sup>nd</sup> year members bring either a character cake or a one-layer cake; 3<sup>rd</sup> year members bring a two-layer cake. Also bring icing, board and box. We will do a mix of stencil and edible goodies (i.e., candy, pretzels, marshmallows). Carol will bring chocolate and molds. If you have Easter cookies cutter, please bring them.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to the Extension Office, 256-2828 or Carol Corder at 248-4069 and leave a message. See you there.

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## **LIVESTOCK NEWS ...**

### **CAT PROJECT MEETING**

There will be a cat project meeting on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will be doing our community service activity. We will finalize details as we get closer to March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please call the co-leaders: Anna Mathiason @671-3333 or Penny Jones @ 254-9411 a few days before March 14<sup>th</sup> to get the details.

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## **RABBIT CLINIC**

A rabbit clinic will take place on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 1:15 p.m. in the Sage Center at MetraPark. We will be working with **ONLY RABBITS** at this clinic. Please bring one rabbit as we will be working on handling and studying body types and structures. If you need help with records books or project books Norma will be available to help after the clinic. **This will be the only county rabbit clinic this year.**

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## **POULTRY CLINIC**

A poultry clinic will take place Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15p.m. in the Sage Center at MetraPark. We will be working with **ONLY POULTRY** at this clinic. Please bring one bird as we will be working on handling, showmanship, and identifying breeds. If you need help with record books or project books Norma will be available to help after the clinic. **This will be the only county poultry clinic this year.**



## LIVESTOCK JUDGING CIRCUIT

What: Redland Memorial Livestock Judging  
 When: Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, Check-in at 8:30-9:00 a.m.  
 Where: Redland Ranch in Hysham  
 Cost: \$10 per participant

Registration deadline is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to Rosebud-Treasure County Extension Office in Forsyth. Entry forms are available at the Yellowstone County Extension Office.

What: Fallon County Spring Livestock Judging  
 When: Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Registration at 1:00 p.m. with judging to follow at 1:30 p.m.  
 Where: Fallon Co. Fairgrounds, Baker, MT  
 Questions: Contact Fallon County Extension at 406-778-7110.

What: Beaverhead County Livestock Judging  
 When: Saturday, April 18th, Registration at 8:30 a.m. with judging to follow at 9:00 a.m.  
 Where: Sitz Angus Bull Sale Barn, Dillon, MT

What: Custer County Spring Livestock Judging  
 When: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, Registration at 3:30 p.m. with judging to follow at 4:00 p.m.  
 Where: Ft. Keogh in Miles City, MT

What: Custer County Spring Livestock Judging  
 When: Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, Registration at 3:30 p.m. with judging to follow at 4:00 p.m.  
 Where: Ft. Keogh in Miles City, MT  
 Questions: Contact Custer County Extension at 406-874-3370.

### Additional 2009 Livestock Judging Events:

Northwest College Contest in Powell, WY in April  
 Missoula County Judging, April 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Lewis and Clark County Judging, May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 MontanaFair, August 14<sup>th</sup> in Billings

## LIVESTOCK JUDGES' TRAINING

A training designed to help you improve your skills in:  
 Livestock selection      Livestock Evaluation  
 Current Terminology      Oral Reason Skills  
 Proficiency in the Show Ring  
 Positive Youth Interaction  
 Audience Communication

When: May 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Where: Canyon County Fairgrounds, Caldwell, ID

Registration: Limited to the first 75 participants

Early Bird Deadline: April 14<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$150 adult, \$100 youth due April 14<sup>th</sup>

Please contact the county Extension Office for a registration form.

## ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING SCHEDULE

Anyone planning on exhibiting animals at the MontanaFair must have attended a Animal Quality Assurance Workshop taught through the Montana State University Extension Service within the last two years. Certification is good for two years. Members who took the class in 2007 need to take the class in 2009. If a member took the class in 2008 they do not need to take the class until 2010. If you have a child who was certified in 2007 and another one who was certified in 2008, it is recommended that you bring both children this year so they get on the same schedule. This will make it easier for your family in the future.

**A parent or guardian MUST** attend the training with the 4-H member. Adults will be asked to be involved in the group discussions and sign the Commitment to Excellence form with their child.

There will be hands on, group activities again. Please plan on arriving on time and staying for the complete 1½ hours. If you are not in attendance for the complete training you may be asked to attend another session. Plan on attending a session early in the year so conflicts do not occur in your family schedule. More classes will **NOT** be added after the June 23<sup>rd</sup> class.

March 5 - Thursday - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Yellowstone County Courthouse, Room 105

April 28 - Tuesday - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Yellowstone County Courthouse, Room 105

June 6 - Saturday - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

PAYS - Swine/Sheep Tagging

June 23 - Tuesday - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Yellowstone County Courthouse, Room 105

## SMALL ANIMAL, LIVESTOCK & SALE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Small Animal Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m., Sale Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. and the Livestock Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. All meet in Room 105 in the Courthouse. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## HORSE AND COLT

The March horse and colt meeting will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. We will covering assessments and Horse ID cards. Everyone is welcome!

## MSU YOUTH HORSEMANSHIP SCHOOL

It's time to start thinking about the MSU Youth Horsemanship School.

Dates: June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Cost: \$300 (Instruction, dorms, meals, horse boarding)  
Need to provide your own chaperone.

Space is limited to the first 50 students who register, and will fill quickly, so you need to get your registration in as soon as possible, even though the deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is an overnight camp and all kids must stay in the dorms and horses must be boarded at their facilities. All kids must provide their own horse.

If anyone has questions, call Julie Hager at 406-994-7953.

## MSU EQUINE CONFERENCE

When: April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Where: MSU's Miller Pavilion and Bozeman's GranTree Inn, both in Bozeman, MT

Cost: Before April 1<sup>st</sup>: \$45 adult, \$25 student  
After April 1<sup>st</sup>: \$55 adult, \$35 student

The conference and trade show includes a horsemanship clinics, lectures, break out sessions and a ranch horse sale. Visit [www.animalrange.montana.edu](http://www.animalrange.montana.edu) and click on "Equine" to obtain registration information and forms.

## SADDLE UP FOR 4-H

It's time to join the "Hours on Horseback" program. Keep track of the hours you ride your project horse from May 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Awards are given at Family Fun Night in November. Print an enrollment form off the 4-H website ([www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h](http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h)) under Other Forms and return it to the Extension Office by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## HORSEMANSHIP AWARD

The Horsemanship Award Contest is open to any Yellowstone County 4-H member in a horse or colt project. The contest consists of a written test, scores by anonymous judges at several horse events and MontanaFair, and a final pattern. There are Jr. and Sr. Divisions. Print an enrollment form off the 4-H website ([www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h](http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/county4h)) under Other Forms and return it to the Extension Office by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## BRAND AN ANIMAL FOR 4-H

For generations, the 4-H name and emblem have represented knowledge, learning and a way of life for Montana families. Recognized throughout the land, the 4-H emblem represents a rich tradition of helping instill leadership and values in our youth.

Many years ago the Montana 4-H Foundation developed the 4-H brand and registered it with the State Department of Livestock. In the early years of its existence, the Foundation operated the "Brand an Animal for 4-H" program. Ranchers across the state would brand a lamb or calf for 4-H each year. One who did this each year was the late Walt Johnson of Belt. Walt and a handful of ranchers would brand a calf each spring, raise them and ship them to sale barns.

The proceeds from the sale of these animals supported 4-H programs such as Montana State Congress, Ambassador Fall Training, Livestock Leaders Forum and scholarship opportunities for our kids.

I'm writing to ask that you participate in the program by branding an animal for 4-H. Funds from this program will be shared between the County 4-H Council you designate and the Montana 4-H Foundation. Donors will receive a

wooden plaque bearing the "4-H" brand, and they will be recognized in the Clover Connections Newsletter, the Montana 4-H Foundation Annual Report and the Montana Stockgrowers Seedstock and Commercial Cattle Directory.

Forms are available at your local Extension Office.

## ANIMAL LEASE AGREEMENT DEADLINES

### Livestock Ownership Requirements

Market Beef - February 7, 2009

Breeding Beef, Dairy, Goats, Breeding Sheep  
and Breeding Hogs - June 6, 2009

Market Lambs and Hogs - June 6, 2009

Rabbits and Poultry - June 6, 2009

The 4-H exhibitor must be the primary caretaker and trainer of any animals they use in their projects. Lease agreements are available at the Extension Office. These agreements are optional.

## NEW SHEEP WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

The new weight requirement are 110 lbs. minimum to show as a market lamb, unless a small breed is selected. The feeder lamb class will be 90 lbs. to 110 lbs. minimum.

## SHEEP SELECTION CLINIC

When: Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Trish Hays' place in Pompey's Pillar  
Call Trish for directions at 875-2152

## CLUB CORNER

The following clubs turned in club minutes this month.

**Boots n Britches** – We discussed horse helmets and many upcoming workshops. We donated to a family who lost their home.

**City Kids** – We had a presentation about financing. A report about fair was given. The club policy was given out.

**City Slickers** – The club talked about an Easter Egg Hunt and the gun show.

**Heights Trailblazers** – We decorated valentine's cookies. We planned club demonstrations and will volunteer at the shelter.

**Hesper Hustlers** – We set up demonstrations and discussed record books. We plan on having a parliamentary procedure workshop in the future.

**Huntley Eagles** – Quality assurance, fruit sale and fair were discussed. We will have our food safety class next month.

**Laurel Roadrunners** – Many project reports were given followed by fruit sale information. Several members gave demonstrations.

**Lockwood Humble Bs** – We talked about communication day, fruit sale and quality assurance. We are looking into community service ideas.

**Lockwood Soaring Phoenix** – The club plans on going to the Reef. The club is looking into a new logo.

**Ruff Riders** – A report about Legislative Breakfast was given with other project reports. We talked about use of club funds.

**Shepherd Pioneers** – The club demonstration day has been set. Reports were given about our service learning project and other activities.

**Shepherd Tumbleweeds** – We talked about drops/adds and the many workshops available. We will help with the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt.

**Worden Riverdale** – We voted to give fruit baskets to some of the club supporters. The valentines will be delivered to the seniors.

**Yellowstone Mavericks** – We practiced short takes and discussed our club camping trip.



## FOOD FOR TALK

Do you ever have the feeling your family dinner table conversation leaves much to be desired? "How was your day?" "Fine." Think about it. Does your family sometimes go for days without ever having a meaningful discussion about something other than piano lessons and the athletic schedules? Communication is an art, and a habit that takes time and patience to develop.

In using the Food for Talk questions, the goal is to let everyone at the table have a chance to answer.

*March's Discussion Questions:*

Parents: What is something you would do if you were 20 years younger? What is stopping you from doing it now?  
Kids: What is something you would do if you were 20 years older?

What is your favorite form of exercise and why?

*"A complaining tongue reveals an ungrateful heart."* ~ William Arthur Ward, American scholar, author, pastor and teacher. Why do you think an ungrateful heart is bad? Or, why do you think a grateful heart is good?

Name the top two things you would like to do to make your life better. Are you doing them? If not, why?

Bernice Mason, Family & Consumer Science Extension Agent, is willing to come to a club meeting to talk about the importance of families eating together. Contact her at the Extension Office to schedule a time.

## TAME THE TUBE

### Did you know?

In a recent study of 6-13 year olds, children reported using screen media for nearly 5 ½ hours daily. When asked to provide a drawing of their favorite thing to do when they were not in school, 57% identified in-home media (TV, videogames, DVDs, or computers) as a favorite activity. By comparison only about 25% of children featured sports or physical activities in their drawings.

Over two-thirds of 8-18 year olds have a TV in their bedroom and nearly a third have a computer in the bedroom (20% have Internet access in their rooms).

Currently, one third of American children and youth are either over weight or obese. Over the past 30 years, the obesity rate has quadrupled for children ages 6-11 years (from 4 to 9 percent).



### Why too much screen time matters:

Researchers have found an association between hours spent watching TV and childhood obesity. As the number of hours spent watching TV increases so does body fat percentage and risk of obesity. An estimated 61% of obese children, ages 5-10 years, already have at least one cardiovascular disease risk factor (such as high blood pressure or high cholesterol), and over 25% of obese children have two or more risk factors.

Children with TV sets in their bedroom watch more TV, snack more and are more likely to be overweight than those with no TV in their bedroom.

### Tips for parents to reduce screen time:



Monitor your child's TV/ screen time viewing to determine how much they are watching, what they are watching and how they are watching.

Set limits on the amount of TV your child watches. Be firm. Limit children's screen-time to an hour or two daily.

Do not allow your child to have a TV set in their bedroom. When a child watches TV in their own bedroom, it is harder for parents to guide program choices. Kids may get less sleep, causing them to be tired at school the next day.

Be a good role model. Keep a check on your own viewing habits...limit your own screen use. Your kids pick up habits from you!

**\*\*This information is from a flyer developed by the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program with the help of many sources which can be found at their website:**  
[www.montanana.org](http://www.montanana.org)





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STATE UNIVERSITY

**EXTENSION**

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# ATTENTION: THIS IS YOUR 4-H NEWSLETTER

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**4-H: The Youth Development Program of MSU Extension**

*The MSU Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.*